



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Sacramento District  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

# Public Notice

Number: 200600648

Date: July 27, 2007

Comments Due: August 28, 2007

**SUBJECT:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to construct the Whitelock Parkway Road Corridor project, which would result in impacts to approximately 0.99 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands. This notice is to inform interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html>.

**AUTHORITY:** This application is being evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

**APPLICANT:** City of Elk Grove  
Bob Lee  
8401 Laguna Palms Way  
Elk Grove, California 95758  
916-478-2227

**LOCATION:** The project site is located in Elk Grove in Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, Township 6 North, Range 5 East, Elk Grove, Sacramento County, California, and can be seen on the Florin USGS Topographic Quadrangle. Specifically the project is located south of Elk Grove Boulevard and north of Poppy Ridge Road, approximately 1 mile east of Bruceville Road.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant is proposing to construct the Whitelock Parkway Road Corridor project between Big Horn Boulevard and West Stockton Boulevard (See Figure 2). The new parkway would include a new 5,563 foot long (1.1 mile), four (4) lane arterial roadway between Big Horn Boulevard and West Stockton Boulevard, a new 40- to 140-foot wide parkway to the north, and a new 25-foot landscape corridor to the south. The new roadway would not connect to West Stockton Boulevard as a part of this project.

The new roadway would be 72 -feet wide and include four travel lanes, a landscaped center divide, and curb gutter system. The parkway/ landscaped corridor would contain grass, spreading shrubs, native trees, and a 10-foot wide pedestrian/bike path way. The 25-foot landscape corridor area would contain a 7-foot wide bike path. The new roadway construction would begin at the western portion of Whitelock Parkway, currently under construction, between Bruceville Road and Big Horn Boulevard and extend east toward West Stockton Boulevard but not connect at this time. An interchange facility connecting Whitelock Parkway/West Stockton Boulevard to Highway 99 is included in the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan, but the City of Elk Grove has no formal plans for developing an interchange at this location. The Laguna Ridge Specific Plan Area is an approximately 1900 acre plan area consisting of residential neighborhoods, commercial retail space, schools, and parks.

Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to construct an arterial roadway into the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan Area. The applicant believes there is a need to construct this roadway to

provide an east-west connection between Bruceville Road and West Stockton Boulevard. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Environmental Setting.** The 6.1 acre project area contains 1.051 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands. Specifically there are 0.436 acres of seasonal wetlands, 0.029 acres of wetland swale, and 0.586 acres of seasonal ditches within the project boundary. The proposed project would impact 0.99 acres of waters, including 0.39 acres of seasonal wetlands 0.03 acres of wetland swale, and 0.57 acres of seasonal drainages.

The project area consists of grassland areas, agricultural land, and a seasonal ditch extending through the proposed road alignment. The discontinuous seasonal ditch bisects the center line of the proposed road alignment with numerous seasonal ditches that extend north and south of the central ditch. The surrounding land uses within the project area and immediately outside the project area consists of livestock grazing, agricultural crop production, and fallow agriculture land. The western portion of the project area consists of the Grove at Laguna Ridge residential subdivision currently under construction. The northwest portion of the project area consists of middle school and high school currently under construction. The remaining fallow agricultural land to the northeast, according to the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan, will be developed into residential subdivisions.

**Alternatives.** The applicant has provided limited information concerning project alternatives. They are currently working to revise and submit additional alternatives information. Additional information concerning project alternatives may be available from the applicant or their agent. Other alternatives may develop during the review process for this permit application. All reasonable project alternatives, in particular those which may be less damaging to the aquatic environment, will be considered.

**Mitigation.** The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation. The applicant has proposed to mitigate project impacts to 0.99 acres of waters by purchasing 0.99 wetland credits from a Corps approved wetland mitigation bank.

**OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS:** Water quality certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region is required for this project. The applicant has indicated they have received this certification.

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES:** The Corps will initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as appropriate.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The proposed activity may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat, including vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*), and giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*). The Corps will initiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as appropriate.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** The proposed project will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The above determinations are based on information provided by the applicant and our preliminary review.

**EVALUATION FACTORS:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the described activity on the public interest. That

decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 230).

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. The Corps is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic environment and the secondary and cumulative effects in relationship to the Laguna Ridge Specific Plan Area. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

**SUBMITTING COMMENTS:** Written comments, referencing Public Notice 200600648, must be submitted to the office listed below on or before August 28, 2007:

Paul Maniccia, Project Manager  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District  
Sacramento Office  
1325 J Street, Room 1480  
Sacramento, California 95814-2922  
Email: [Paul.M.Maniccia@usace.army.mil](mailto:Paul.M.Maniccia@usace.army.mil)

Anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state, with particularity, the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the Corps determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. If you have questions or need additional information please contact the applicant or the Corps' project manager Paul Maniccia, 916-557-6704, [Paul.M.Maniccia@usace.army.mil](mailto:Paul.M.Maniccia@usace.army.mil).

Attachments: 5 drawings